

Message Text

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APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART

PM/ISO - MR. HAGERTY

AF/RA - MR. NAVEZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 196694

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MP, CO, MILI

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SUPPORT FOR NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION
DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A. PORT LOUIS 0957

B. BANGKOK 15036

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY RAISING ISSUE OF PROPOSED MAURITIUS
VISIT BY OICC THAILAND TO STUDY ARCHITECT-ENGINEER
POTENTIALITIES IN MAURITIUS. WE CONCUR WITH YOUR EVALUATION,
REF A, AND RECOMMEND THAT TRIP NOT REPEAT NOT BE APPROVED.

2. FYI. WE HAVE INFORMED ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OF INTENT
TO PHASE DOWN KAGNEW BY END OF FY74 AND HAVE OBTAINED
BRITISH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH PLAN TO AUGMENT DIEGO
GARCIA COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO REPLACE CERTAIN KAGNEW
FUNCTIONS. WE ARE WORKING WITH IEG ON AGREED PRESS RELEASE
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RE KAGNEW PHASE DOWN, AND WITH HMG ON DIEGO CONTINGENCY

PRESS GUIDANCE. HOWEVER, NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE, AND NAVY HAS NOT AS YET APPROACHED CONGRESS FOR DIEGO MIL-CON FUNDS.

3. AS CURRENTLY PLANNED, DIEGO CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL BIDDING. IN FACT, BRITISH HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED THAT FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY WE PLAN TO

TO COMPLETE BOTH CURRENT AND FOLLOW-ON CONSTRUCTION ON DIEGO GARCIA WITH U.S. NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FORCES. THUS, IT WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY INADVISABLE TO AROUSE MAURITIAN INTEREST AT THIS TIME WITH SURVEY OF THEIR ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION TALENTS ON THE CONTINGENCY THAT IT MIGHT BE CONTRACTED OR EMPLOYED AT SOME FUTURE DATE. END FYI.

4. IN INFORMAL QUERY, DOD AND NAVY INDICATED THEY WERE UNAWARE OF PROPOSED VISIT BY OICC AND SAW NO REASON FOR TRIP. DEPARTMENT AND DOD ALSO NOT AWARE OF PROBLEM DISCUSSED PARA 2 REF B. THUS, WE CONSIDER PROPOSED VISIT BY OICC THAILAND NOT NECESSARY FOR SUPPORT OF EITHER ON-GOING OR PROJECTED DIEGO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

5. EMBASSY MAY REPEAT THIS EXCHANGE TO BANGKOK IF DEEMED USEFUL. RUSH

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